

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: New Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology, ISU

Date: November 4, 2002

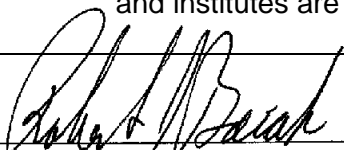
Recommended Action:

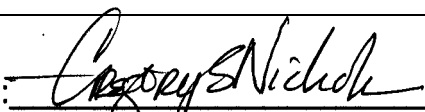
Approve Iowa State University's request for a new center to be called the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology.

Executive Summary:

Rename Survey Section of Statistical Laboratory of IRISS	Iowa State University recently sought and received approval to establish the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS). That new Institute reports to the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies and currently oversees the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research, the Research Institute for Studies in Education, and the Survey Section of the Statistical Laboratory. This request is for approval to rename the Survey Section of the Statistical Laboratory and to confer Center status to it. The proposed name of the unit is the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (CSSM).
Confer Center Status on Unit	This action would appropriately align the units that report to IRISS and would necessarily elevate the status of the unit to Center status.
\$2.6 Million Budget	The unit's current budget is \$2.6 million and largely funded by external grants. This action will have no direct impact on the budget nor require additional funds. Approximately \$175,000 of the \$2,600,000 will be funded by internal ISU State of Iowa funds.

The University's responses to the Board of Regents questions for centers and institutes are attached.


Robert J. Barak

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (Proposed)

Affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS)

1. What is the title of the proposed center or institute?

We are seeking to rename the Statistical Laboratory Survey Section to the *Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology* (CSSM).

2. What is the administrative relationship of the proposed unit to other entities on campus, such as departments or colleges?

CSSM is one of the centers under the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS) structure that was approved by the Board of Regents in May 2002. IRISS is an institute under the ISU Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies.

3. To whom will the administrative director of the unit report?

The director of CSSM will report to the director of IRISS.

4. Succinctly describe the basic purposes and objectives of the unit.

- a. How will the activities of the unit relate to the general mission and teaching programs of the university?

CSSM came into existence as the Survey Section of the Statistical Laboratory in 1938 as a result of a cooperative agreement between the Statistical Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Initial work under this agreement led to the development of the Master Sample of Agriculture, a national area sample of land that was subsequently utilized in numerous economic surveys of U.S. agriculture. Research was also conducted that provided the foundation for area sampling methods and statistical estimation for sample surveys. Today, CSSM is internationally known for its expertise in developing methods for and conducting surveys of natural resources, human populations, businesses, and other types of populations. Faculty engage in research and teaching activities (classroom instruction and graduate student advising) related to survey science. Outreach is conducted with fellow ISU faculty, staff and students, as well as with researchers in state and federal government.

- b. How do they relate to the strategic plan of the department and/or university?

The current mission of CSSM is:

1. to conduct research in the areas of survey sample design, data collection methodologies, statistical estimation, and data analysis;
2. to teach academic courses in survey statistics, survey methods, and related topics; and
3. to provide support and operational services in the areas of design and selection of samples, construction of questionnaires and related forms, data collection, data processing, estimation, data summarization, and analysis.

As such, CSSM activities are directly in line with research, teaching and outreach missions of the University.

5. Do similar units exist at other public or private colleges or universities in Iowa? If so, how does the proposed unit relate to them?

No other academic program in Iowa has a primary mission of research and teaching in methods for statistical surveys and providing survey research services.

6. What are the proposed sources and annual amounts of funding for the unit?

CSSM expects to continue to base its activities primarily on funding from external agreements. Currently, CSSM holds agreements that are estimated to total over \$3 million in FY03. Long-standing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cooperative agreement funds are anticipated to be \$2 million in FY03. Other research funding in FY03 is provided by National Science Foundation, USDA, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, National Institutes of Health, Environmental Protection Agency. State and intramural data collection contracts make up approximately \$300,000 of anticipated funding. Table 1 presents an approximate budget for the direct costs associated with CSSM survey research and data collection agreements.

7. Which of the costs in item 6 represent new financial obligations to the general fund of the university?

The proposed CSSM involves renaming an existing unit, and there are no new financial obligations to the general fund of the university associated with this name change.

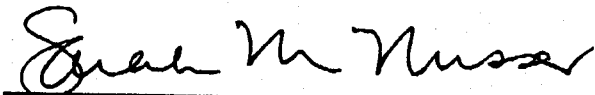
Table 1. Estimated budget for direct costs associated with the proposed Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (current Statistical Laboratory Survey Section).

Budgetary Item	Total Annual Amount (\$)	Portion Funded by State (\$)
Faculty salaries ¹	330,000	120,000
P&S and merit staff salaries, wages	965,000	15,000
Post-docs, students salaries	225,000	0
Extra hourly wages	100,000	0
Fringe benefits	360,000	40,000
Computing equipment and services	330,000	0
Other direct costs (supplies, travel, telecommunications, etc.)	65,000	0
Subcontracts (research)	225,000	0
<i>Total direct costs</i>	<i>2,600,000</i>	<i>175,000</i>

¹ Faculty salaries are affiliated with a total of 2.2 B-base FTEs spread across four faculty lines. State funds are provided by the Statistical Laboratory account.

Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (Proposed)

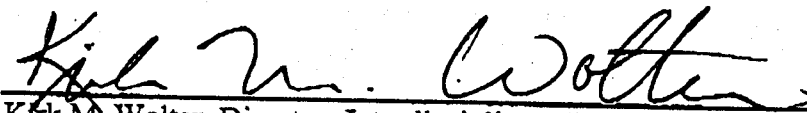
Approved by:



Sarah M. Nusser, Professor-in-charge, Survey Section (proposed Director of CSSM)

10-7-02

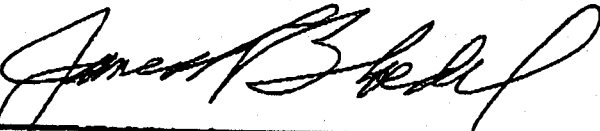
Date



Kirk M. Wolter, Director, Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS)

10/7/02

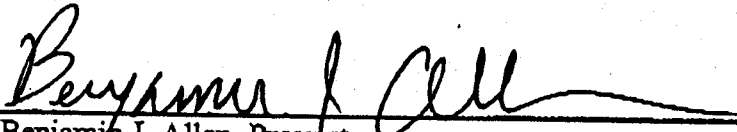
Date



James R. Bloedel, Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies

10/8/02

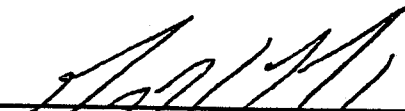
Date



Benjamin J. Allen, Provost

10/18/02

Date



Gregory L. Geoffroy, President
Iowa State University

10/18/02

Date